

BALA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1970

To The Chairman and Members of the Bala Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Health Report for the year ended December 31st, 1970.

The estimate of the Registrar General for the mid-year population was 1,600 which is the same as that given for 1969 and 1968.

There were 24 live births one less than in 1969. There was no stillbirth no infant death and indeed no person under the age of 45 died during the year. There was no death in childbirth.

The total number of deaths was 29. Again over half of these deaths were due to heart and circulatory disease and strokes. Six persons died from cancer this being the same number as in 1969.

The report generally indicates a healthy community.

I wish to thank the Public Health Inspector, the Clerk and all the other Council Officials for their help during the year.

Finally I wish to thank all the Members of the Council for their support.

I remain,

Your obedient servant

H. FRANCIS

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

SECTION A.GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Bala district - 663 acres  
 Rateable Value - £52,410  
 Population(Registrar General's figures) - 1,600  
 Sum represented by a Penny Rate - £490  
 Number of inhabited houses (According to  
 the Rate Books) at end of year - 560

VITAL STATISTICS

## Comparability Factors

Births ... .. 1.23  
 Deaths ... .. 0.76

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total ... ..	14	10	24
Legitimate ... ..	13	10	23
Illegitimate ... ..	1	-	1

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population - 15.0  
 1969 figures - 15.6  
Illegitimate Live Births (per 1,000 population) - 0.63

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total ... ..	-	1	1

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population - 0.63

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Live  
 and Still Births - 40

<u>TOTAL BIRTHS (Live and Still)</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live ... ..	14	11	25
Still ... ..	1	1	1

DEATHSDEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total ... ..	-	-
Legitimate ... ..	-	-
Illegitimate ... ..	-	-

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births - nil.  
 1969 figures - 40

Deaths of Legitimate Infants Mortality - nil  
 (per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births)

Deaths of Illegitimate Infants Mortality - nil  
 (per 1,000 illegitimate Live Births)

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total ... ..	-	-
Legitimate ... ..	-	-
Illegitimate ... ..	-	-

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE

		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total	... ..	-	-
Legitimate	... ..	-	-
Illegitimate	... ..	-	-
<u>Neo-Natal Mortality Rate</u>	-	nil	
<u>Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate</u>	-	nil	
<u>Perinatal Mortality Rate</u>	-	40	
<u>MATERNAL DEATHS</u> (Including abortion)	-	nil	
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY</u> (Rate per 1,000			
Live Still Births	-	nil	
1969 figures	-	nil	

DEATHS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total number ... ..	14	15	29
Rate per 1,000 population - 18.1			
1969 figures - nil			

DEATHS FROM CANCER

Total number ... ..	4	2	6
Rate per 1,000 population - 3.75			
1969 figures - 3.75			

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Total number ... ..	nil
Rate per 1,000 population - nil	
1969 figures - nil	

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA(1) Public Health Officers of the Authority

One Medical Officer of Health.  
One Public Health Inspector.

(2) Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological examination of water and examination of milk at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway.

(3) Ambulance Facilities

There are three full time drivers and two ambulances stationed at the Hafan, Bala.

(4) Infant Welfare Clinics

This clinic is held every other Thursday at the Hafan Clinic, Bala.

(5) Ante Natal Clinics

This clinic is held every second Wednesday in the Month at the Plas-yn-dre, Bala

(6) Orthopaedic Clinic

Held at Plasyndre, Bala on the 4th Thursday in each month.

(7) Tuberculosis Clinic

This clinic is held at Plas-yn-dre, Bala at 10.30 a.m. on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Thursday in each month.

(8) Immunisation

Carried out at Infant Welfare Centre, Hafan Bala by the General Practitioners and by the G.P. in their surgeries.

(9) Hospitals

There is no hospital in the Urban Area.

(10) Infectious Diseases

Total number of Infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year:- 7

Scarlet Fever  
Bacillary Dysentery  
Whooping Cough 6  
Measles 1  
Infantile Paralysis  
Pneumonia  
Infective Jaundice

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES

Pulmonary	<u>TOTAL</u> 1
Males 1	Females nil.
Non-Pulmonary	<u>TOTAL</u> nil
Males -	Females -

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS

Pulmonary	<u>TOTAL</u> nil
Males nil	Females nil
Non-Pulmonary	<u>TOTAL</u> nil
Males nil	Females nil



TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1970 in age groups

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
2								
3								
5								
10								
15								
20								
25								
35								
45								
55								
65	1							
75								
TOTAL	1							

# CAUSES OF DEATH 1979

Males      Females

Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .....		
Other Tuberculosis, Incl. Late Effects .....		
Other Tuberculosis :.....		
Enteritis and Other Diarrhoeal Diseases .....		
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .....		
Malignant Neoplasn, Buccal Cavity etc. ....	1	nil
"          "          Oesophagus .....		
"          "          Stomach .....	nil	1
"          "          Intestine .....	nil	1
"          "          Lung, Bronchus .....	2	nil
"          "          Breast .....		
"          "          Uterus .....		
"          "          Prostate .....	1	nil
Leukaemia .....		
Other Malignant Neoplasn, etc. ....		
Diabetes Mellitus ,.....	1	nil
Avitaminoses, etc. ....		
Other Endocrino etc. Diseases .....		
Anaemias .....		
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc. ....		
Mental Disorders .....		
Multiple Sclerosis .....		
Chronic Rhounatic Heart Disease .....		
Hupertensive Disease .....		
Ischaemic Heart Disease .....	3	3
Other Forms of Heart Disease .....	1	nil
Cerebrovascular Disease .....	2	7
Other Diseases of Circulatory System .....		
Influenza .....		
Pneumonia .....	nil	1
Bronchitis and Emphysema .....	2	nil
Other Disease of Respiratory System .....		
Peptic Ulcer .....		
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia .....	nil	1
Cirrhosis of Liver .....	nil	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System .....		
Nephritis and Nephrosis .....		
Hyperplasia of Prostate .....		
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System .....		
Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue .....		
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System .....		
Congenital Anomalies .....		
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc. ....		
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality .....		
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions .....		
Motor vehicle accidents .....	1	nil
All other accidents .....		
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries .....		
All Other External Causes .....		

## FOOD HYGIENE

Premises were inspected and advice given

## No. of Prosecutions

Nil.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT 1970

1. HOUSING

(a) Council Building:

Twelve two-bedroomed flats were completed at Blaenddol during 1970, thus bringing the total number of Council owned dwellings to 215, and the following table shows the numbers and types in the various estates.

SITE	NUMBER OF DWELLINGS				TOTAL
	4B'R's	3B'R's	2B'R's	1B'R's	
MAESYGERDDI		10			10
MAESYBRONYDD	12	18			30
BRO ERYL	12	52			64
HAFAN	4	42			46
FFORDD-Y-G RDDI		6	12 (Bungalows)		18
GREEN		2			2
BLAENDDOL		32	12 (Flats)		44
LIBRARY HOUSE			1		1
TOTAL	28	162	25		215

(b) Private Building

Eight new private dwelling houses were built during 1970, and at the end of the year a further five were under construction.

The following table shows the number of Private and Council dwellings completed during the period 1960-1970.

YEAR	COUNCIL HOUSES COMPLETED	PRIVATELY BUILT HOUSES COMPLETED
1960	NIL	NIL
1961	NIL	NIL
1962	NIL	NIL
1963	18	NIL
1964	NIL	4
1965	NIL	NIL
1966	18	4
1967	14	NIL
1968	NIL	1
1969	NIL	2
1970	12	8
TOTAL	62	19



(c) IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

1. STANDARD

	<u>OWNER/OCCUPIERS</u>		<u>TENANTED</u>	
	<u>5 POINTS</u>	<u>3 POINTS</u>	<u>5 POINTS</u>	<u>3 POINTS</u>
No. of Applications received	1	-	-	-
No. of Applications approved	1	-	-	-
No. of Applications refused	-	-	-	-
No. dwellings improved	1	-	-	-

AMOUNT PAID IN GRANTS

£129.00

Since 1961 when the Council first approved an application for a Standard Grant, up to the end of 1970, 26 applications for such grants have been approved and a total amount of £2,564 have been paid in grants.

2. DISCRETIONARY

There were 6 applications for Discretionary Grants during 1970 and the total amount of grant paid was £186.

(d) RENT ACT 1957 - CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the year.

(e) REPAIR, HOUSING & PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Defects of disrepair were remedied in 7 houses, by the owners, following informal action.

Five private houses were closed following undertakings by the owners not to relet the properties and one closing order was revoked following the repair and improvement of the house.

(f) CHANGES IN THE STOCK OF DWELLINGS

During 1970 there was a loss of 2 dwellings through change from housing to other use, and the other through the conversion of 2 houses into one.

2. RODENT CONTROL

1. PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS

Non-Agricultural

Agricultural

(a) No. of Properties in district	771	3
(b) Total No. of Properties inspected following notification	34	1
No. infested by rats	18	1
"      "      " mice	16	-
(c) Total No. of Properties inspected for reasons other than notification	4	-
No. infested by rats	4	-
"      "      " mice	-	-



2. SURFACE WATER SEWERS During December the town's surface water sewers were inspected and bait laid at various manholes in order to find out the degree, if any, of infestation with rats.

No apparent "Takes" were evident thus suggesting that the lengths tested were free of any infestation.

3. POISON USED

The poison generally used is Warfarin. This is one of a number of poisons known as "anticoagulants" because their main action on animals is to prevent the blood from clotting.

There was no indication found that rodents in this area are developing resistance to this poison.

Complaints of infestation are investigated and treatments are carried out by one of the Council's workmen, and no charge is made for either private or business premises.

3. PEST CONTROL

During 1970 fifteen properties, mainly dwelling houses were treated for cockroach infestation. There were no requests for treatment against flies.

4. OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

The following tables and particulars provide information concerning the administration and enforcement of the Act and Regulations in the Bala Urban District during the year 1970.

TABLE A  
REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of premises	Number of premises newly registered during the year.	Total number of registered premises at end of year.	Number of Registered premises receiving one or more general inspection during the year.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Offices	-	9	9
Retail Shops	-	26	26
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	-	1	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	9	9
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
TOTALS	1	45	45

TABLE B

NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS (INCLUDING GENERAL INSPECTIONS)  
to REGISTERED PREMISES

72

TABLE C

ANALYSIS BY WORKPLACE OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN  
REGISTERED PREMISES AT END OF YEAR

CLASS OF WORKPLACE (1)	NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED (2)
Offices	34
Retail Shops	49
Wholesale Departments and Warehouses	1
Catering Establishments open to the public	47
Canteens	2
Fuel Storage Depots	1
TOTAL	134
TOTAL MALES	44
TOTAL FEMALES	90

## ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS

Section	Number of Contraventions found	Section	Number of Contraventions Found		
4	Cleanliness	3	13	Sitting facilities	-
5	Overcrowding	-	14	Seats (Sedentary Workers	-
6	Temperature	2	15	Eating facilities	-
7	Ventilation	-	16	Floors, passage & stairs	4
8	Lighting	2	17	Fencing exposed parts machinery	-
9	Sanitary Conveniences	6	18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	-
10	Washing facilities	3	19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	-
11	Supply of drinking water	-	23	Prohibition of heavy work	-
12	Clothing accommodation	2	24	First aid	6
				Other matters	7
				TOTAL	29

ACCIDENTS

No accident was reported in the year under review.

5. FCOD

(A) MEAT INSPECTION

<u>CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED</u>	<u>CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS</u>	<u>COWS</u>	<u>CALVES</u>	<u>SHEEP AND LAMBS</u>	<u>PIGS</u>
Number killed	95	8	7	1,328	198
Number <u>NOT</u> inspected	NONE				
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	1	1	9	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	10	3	1	119	8
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticerci</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

The principal cause of condemnation of organs continues to be Fascioliasis, being infestation of cattle and sheep livers with the liver fluke, together with other parasitic conditions. The reasons for rejection of the nine sheep and lamb carcasses were various, including injury, bruising and emaciation.

The two pigs carcasses condemned were affected with Swine Erysipelas, and the cow carcass rejected showed evidence of Septicaemia.

(B) SLAUGHTERHOUSE - HYGIENE REGULATIONS

Circular FSH 2/70, dated January 1970, from The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, concerning the Meat (Sterilisation) Regulations, gave further guidance upon the operation of those provisions of the regulations which allow unfit meat and knacker meat to be moved subject to the specified safe guards.

During the year the means of supply of hot water at the Slaughterhouse became faulty and was renewed

(C) UN SOUND FOOD SURRENDERED OR CONDEMNED

			Tons.	Cwts.	Lbs.	Tons.	Cwts.	Lbs.
1. <u>Meat</u>								
(a) Slaughterhouses	(i)	carcase meat		12	56		13	11
	(ii)	offal		1	67			
(b) Wholesale premises	(i)	carcase meat		-	-		-	-
	(ii)	offal		-	-		-	-
(c) Retail shops	(i)	carcase meat		-	-		-	-
	(ii)	offal		-	-		-	-
2. Cooked meat and meat products								15
3. Canned meats								20
4. Other canned foods								79



	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Lbs</u>
5. Fish (fresh)			14
6. Fruit and vegetables (fresh)			-
7. Frozen foods due to cabinet breakdown			35
8. Other foods			60
		14	109

Unsound food stuffs, mainly canned, and excepting unfit meat, are disposed of by burying in the Council's Refuse Tip.

#### (D) FOOD HYGIENE

##### (a) Food Hygiene Regulations

Food premises were inspected from time to time and forthwith upon complaint.

List of Food Premises in the District:

Bakehouses	1
School Canteens	2
Cafes	12
Public Houses & Hotels	5
Ice Cream Premises	12
Butchers	3
Retail Shops	13
Slaughterhouses	1
Fried-Fish shops	4
Dairies	2

Defects and shortcomings in food premises generally included the following matters: absence of first aid materials, defective structure, defective decoration, faulty ventilation, lack of cleanliness, chipped crockery, outdoor clothing kept in food rooms etc.

At hotels improvements included the following matters: unsatisfactory condition of beer cellars, drainage of floors, defective decoration, improvement to lighting, ventilation and the screening of sanitary accommodation.

During the year many shops were altered structurally, and advice regarding various matters was given at plan stage in order to avoid possible contravention of Regulations when work was completed. There is a trend for shop fronts to be without air-inlets and the attention of occupiers of food premises and that of the builders is drawn to the need for adequate provision for ventilation.

Although structural requirements in food premises are now largely satisfied and most of them have the required equipment there is still a wide variety of shortcomings in practice.

It is essential that food-handlers recognise that everything connected with food must be scrupulously clean, and even in premises where equipment and fittings are of the most modern standard food hygiene will break down if there is a lapse upon the part of the personnel employed.

#### (E) FOREIGN MATTER IN FOOD

During 1970 two complaints were received from consumers of food that they had bought. one concerning a meat pie affected by mould, and the other of pre-sliced bacon being dirty and containing pieces of string.

Following reports to the Council warning letters were sent to the producers of these items and in the case of the bacon the Local Authority in whose area it was prepared and packed was notified of the incident.

The number of complaints of foreign matter in food increases each year, and it must also be remembered that not every incident is reported to the Local Authority.

## (F) FOOD POISONING

Five cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during 1970.

Investigation failed to show the causation of these cases.

## (G) DATE STAMPING OF FOOD

During the year there was considerable press publicity about the coding of perishable foods, the use of open date-stamping and allegations that some van delivery salesmen take back unsold food from retailers and re-sell it to others.

The Association of Public Health Inspectors conducted its own survey on sale or return systems of merchandising and obtained direct evidence of malpractices.

A comprehensive study was made of date stamping and the Association said that whilst open date stamping could create various difficulties for manufacturers and retailers it could be a valuable safeguard for consumers.

A series of discussions was held with the leading manufacturers and retailing organisation to explore the subject. It was subsequently announced by the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries & Food that the Food Standards Committee was to review the subject.

It is appreciated that some food manufacturers already adopt open date stamping systems but because the difficulties in extending the system was recognised it had been suggested that trade trials be carried out on short and medium life foods to see whether these difficulties could be overcome.

In the meantime the Association has urged that manufacturers use a national uniform coding system indicating the date of manufacture and that retailers be advised of the coding and the shelf life of the commodities under different conditions.

## 6. FACTORIES ACT 1961

The number of factories on the Register at the end of the year remained at 12.

No Notices were served.

## 7. CARAVAN SITES

No new licence was granted under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960.

The only licence site within the Urban area is in respect of land at Loch Cae, the number of caravans there being restricted to 3.

## 8. WATER SUPPLY

### Bacteriological Quality

5 samples of the town's water supply were submitted for Bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway, and were found to be satisfactory.

Complaints of the presence of sediment in the water supply were forwarded to the Water Board.

Continuous chlorination of the Llyn Arenig supply was instituted during 1970.

9. REFUSE COLLECTION

During 1970 the paper/polythene sack system introduced in 1968 was extended to the 12 new Council flats at Blaenddol, using purpose made plastic bins as the sack holders.

Further private householders bought sack holders from the Council, the sacks themselves being provided free of charge by the Council.

There is no doubt that this form of refuse storage and collection has been accepted in principle as an improvement to the traditional metal receptacles, welcomed by the refuse collectors and by the people using them, and it is hoped that it will be possible to gradually extend this system so that eventually all properties, both Council owned and privately owned will have their present assorted and often unsuitable forms of refuse containers replaced by the cleaner and easier to handle paper or plastic sacks.